

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

TO: David Hankerson
County Manager

FROM: John Reida, Director, Property Management Department
Rick Brun, Director, Purchasing Department

DATE: February 24, 2009

PURPOSE

To adopt the Cobb County Sustainable Practices Policy to specify sustainable, environmentally friendly design requirements and operational practices for new and existing buildings and properties.

BACKGROUND

Cobb County has been at the forefront among local governments in conserving and protecting the resources entrusted to it by its Citizens. In the past the County has embarked on a number of initiatives to exhibit this understanding of the stewardship entrusted to the County. These measures have included the purchase of greenspace, the installation of high efficiency lighting in county buildings, retrofitting county buildings with water saving plumbing fixtures, using natural gas transit buses and other fleet vehicles, replacing inefficient heating and air conditioning equipment in buildings, and redeveloping vacant properties (Greyfield sites) for county operations, thereby preserving undeveloped land.

On January 22, 2008 the Cobb County Board of Commissioners further confirmed its commitment to a sustainable community by passing the County's first Green Building Policy. This policy directed that all large new buildings and major renovations shall be designed to LEED™ green building standards and, where possible, to become LEED certified. Currently the County has two buildings in final design that will pursue the LEED certification.

The goals of the original Green Buildings policy were five fold: improving energy efficiency, embracing indoor environmental quality, conserving materials and resources, sustainable site planning, and safeguarding water. These goals are equally applicable to the design and construction of smaller facilities and those otherwise not achieving LEED certification, and for the operation of buildings and the design and maintenance of non-building county assets.

Accordingly, the Cobb County Sustainable Practices Policy has been developed to promote environmentally sustainable design and construction of buildings and sites, and for operations and maintenance activities for County facilities other assets. The Policy is included with this agenda item by Attachment. Implementation shall be under the direction of the County Manager.

FUNDING

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners adopt the Cobb County Sustainable Practices Policy to specify sustainable, environmentally friendly design requirements and operational practices for new and existing buildings and properties. This policy replaces the existing Green Buildings Policy passed by the Board January 22, 2008.

Attachment:

Cobb County Sustainable Practices Policy